

DSP&S Allocation

Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) of the California Community Colleges was enacted in 1976 through the passage of AB 77 (*Education Code*, Sections 72011, 78600, and 84850) to provide a variety of support services and instruction to students with disabilities to increase their access to campus programs and facilitate progress toward their educational goals.

The allocation formula for providing DSP&S funds to the colleges emphasizes the actual cost of providing services to disabled students and has three elements:

1. The Base Allocation (Fixed Costs)

A base allocation of funds is allocated annually per college. This amount is intended to cover the salary and benefits of a certificated DSP&S Coordinator, as required by Section 56068, Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.

2. Weighted Number of Students Served

After the base allocation has been distributed, 90 percent of the remaining funds are allocated on the basis of the numbers of students served, weighted by disability group. Weights are assigned according to disability group, given that, on the average, the service needs of students with various disabilities vary in cost. The weights were developed after a comprehensive study, based on actual cost data, of the cost of services to students with various disabilities.

3. College Effort

The formula rewards "college effort," which is measured by the college general fund revenues allocated to serve students with disabilities. Ten percent of the DSP&S funding provided by the State is to be distributed to the colleges based on this element of the formula. College effort is calculated in the following manner:

College Effort = Total Program Cost (allowable expenditures) - General College Apportionment for special classes (after indirect cost rate deduction) - Other Income (such as State and Federal grants, and local contributions) - DSP&S Allocation

The amount of DSP&S funds generated by the college effort element varies annually.

The Colleges' actual expenditures, which are reported to the System Office in the End of Year Reports, are used to compute the DSP&S allocation. Reductions in funding to a college are limited to 5 percent per year and an increase of approximately 5 percent is allowed based on availability of funds. (because FY 2006-07 increases were capped at 4.32%)

Both the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) and growth money are determined after the formula has been computed. Any augmentation to the program is allocated based on weighted student count by college or for a specific purpose if so designated in the Budget Act.

(Note for discussion: Access to Print \$ is distributed based on total FTES, rather than DSP&S WSC.)